



Saguaro National Park News Release

For Immediate Release

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Lightning Ignites Wildfire in Saguaro National Park's Rincon Mountains

At 1:45 pm on Friday afternoon lightning ignited the Cow Head Fire in the Rincon Mountains. The fire is approximately ½ mile southeast of Cow Head Saddle, estimated to be near the 6,200 foot elevation level. Fuels in the area include oak, manzanita, pinyon pine, juniper and grass. The fire is estimated to be less than 1 acre. It is burning in an area with reduced fuel loads, a result of a prescribed fire conducted in 1998. The fire is being monitored, but is currently unstaffed. Minimal fire activity was observed during an aerial reconnaissance this evening. Another aerial reconnaissance will be conducted tomorrow morning, if weather permits, to determine the need for suppression action. Firefighters will respond as needed. The fire is in the vicinity of the Manning Camp Trail, but the trail is not threatened at this time. No closures have been implemented.

For fire updates, call the Park's fire information hotline at (520) 733-5150.

Although the area has received some precipitation in the past few days, Park officials remind visitors that fire restrictions remain in place.

- Fires are prohibited, except in developed picnic areas or backcountry campsites.
- Smoking is permitted only within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is free of flammable materials.
- Use and possession of fireworks is prohibited year-round.